

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

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Facts About the National Cemetery Administration

MISSION

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors veterans with a final resting place and lasting memorials that commemorate their service to our nation.

NCA STATISTICS

- NCA currently maintains more than 2.6 million gravesites at 121 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.
- Approximately 300,000 full-casket gravesites, 65,000 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains, and 35,000 columbarium niches are available in already developed acreage in our 121 national cemeteries.
- There are approximately 14,500 acres within established installations in NCA. Just over half are undeveloped and—with available gravesites in developed acreage—have the potential to provide more than 3.6 million gravesites.
- Of the 121 national cemeteries, 61 are open to all interments; 22 can accommodate cremated remains and family members of those already interred; and 38 are closed to new interments, but may accommodate family members in already occupied gravesites.
- Since 1973, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 150 percent, from 36,400 to more than 93,000 in fiscal year 2004. Interments are expected to increase annually until 2008.
- Of the more than 93,000 interments conducted in fiscal year 2004, 72.8 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside, Calif., Calverton, N.Y., Florida, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Fort Snelling, Minn., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Willamette, Ore., Fort Logan, Colo., National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Fort Rosecrans, Calif., Houston, Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Tahoma, Wash., San Joaquin Valley, Calif., Massachusetts, Abraham Lincoln, Ill., Indiantown Gap, Pa., Long Island, N.Y., Puerto Rico, and Ohio Western Reserve National Cemeteries.
- As of Sept. 30, 2004, eight national cemeteries each contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 43.1 percent of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island, N.Y., Calverton, N.Y., Fort Snelling, Minn., Riverside, Calif., Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Golden Gate, Calif., Willamette, Ore., and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, National Cemeteries.

- Largest National Cemetery: Calverton (N.Y.) 1,045 acres.
Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton at the VA Medical Center, (Va.) .03 acres.
Oldest National Cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 are maintained by VA).
Newest National Cemetery: National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in August 2005.
- Since 1973, NCA has provided more than 8.8 million headstones and markers. In fiscal year 2004, NCA provided more than 349,000 headstones and markers.
- NCA provided more than 435,000 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans in fiscal year 2004.
- Since 1980, NCA's State Cemetery Grants Program has obligated over \$215 million to 32 states and Guam for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 62 state veterans cemeteries. In fiscal year 2004, NCA-supported state cemeteries provided more than 19,200 interments.
- Volunteers donated approximately 364,000 hours at national cemeteries during fiscal year 2004.
- Over 8.7 million people visited VA national cemeteries in fiscal year 2004.
- In 1999 and 2003, with the passage of two laws, Congress directed VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. One has opened in Oklahoma and one in Pennsylvania. The rest – one in Alabama, two in California, three in Florida, one in Georgia, one in Michigan, one in Pennsylvania and one in South Carolina – will be located where veteran populations of 170,000 or more reside within a 75 mile area unserved by a VA national cemetery.

VETERAN STATISTICS

- Veterans' deaths are expected to peak at 676,000 in 2008. VA estimates that more than 662,000 veterans died in 2004. Historically, about 12 percent of U.S. veterans choose to be buried in VA national and state cemeteries. This percentage will increase with the recent opening of new national cemeteries.